



Potomac Elementary School

School Board Minutes

for
May 9, 2016

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*“Potomac School equips each student for his/her future
within a culture of excellence that values the small community experience.”*

Call to Order

Board Chair Cliff Vann called the meeting to order at 7:02 pm by leading all in the Pledge of Allegiance. Those trustees present were: Gary Long, Craig Nelson, Jason Nordberg and Kelsy Ployhar. Angie Williams, Principal was also in attendance.

Public Input (for issues not on the agenda)

G Knapp from the 7th grade class presented their plan to take a trip to Fort Peck for fishing and horseback riding. The total trip might be 4 days. B Olson added the class would stop at points along the way. Currently 7 students plan to go on the trip.

Minutes

Kelsy moved to approve the minutes from March 14, 2016. Gary seconded the motion. **Passed 5-0**

Board Reorganization

1. Select Officers:

Gary nominated Cliff Vann to serve as Board Chair. Jason seconded the motion. **Passed 5-0**

Gary nominated Kelsy Ployhar to serve as Vice Chair. Jason seconded the motion. **Passed 5-0**

2. Appoint Business Manager/Clerk

Jason moved to appoint Jill Thornton as Business Manager/Clerk of the District. Kelsy seconded the motion. **Passed 5-0**

Consent Agenda

Warrant Lists – Total Claims = \$28,702.62. Total Payroll = \$63,062.14

Business Cards – Included in Total Claims noted.

Petty Cash – Supplemental to monthly warrants used between Board Meetings – Reimbursed thru Claims.

Extracurricular (Student Accounts) –were not presented in this packet

Jason moved to approve the consent agenda. Gary seconded the motion. **Passed 5-0**

Teacher Presentations

Abby Stitt talked about the Montana Natural History Centers Naturalists program. It runs once a month for 9 months, from October through May. The class takes field trips, and has been to Maclay Flats and Fort Missoula. The cost is \$220 but we get a scholarship to pay for half of that fee.

Crissina Quinn talked about what the students do in Explorers. Activities have included rock climbing, service learning, snowshoes, ski trips, crime scene investigation and website creation that is linked to the school website. Summer camps will include food service, food bank, Animeals, rock climbing, swimming, and our summer reading program. Last year 18 students attended 6 days or more. This year is at 21 students so far.

Principals Report

May is flying by! We have a lot going on and everyone is antsy to be outside and enjoy the beautiful weather.

Track is going well. The qualifying meet is this Thursday in Frenchtown with the Meet of Champions the following week. Our athletes have represented themselves and our school well. We're proud of them!

Testing- We have completed all of our testing. The Smarter Balance state assessment went very smoothly. We should have access to the scores this summer. We have learned that we need to get students on computers early to boost their keyboarding skills before they take these tests.

Infinite Campus- We are transitioning into the District version of Infinite Campus, which is a Student Information System, used by many schools, special education and by OPI. We've had the simple version, which wasn't being used to full capacity. The District version will allow us to take attendance (instead of with a Google Doc as it is now), keep all student information in one place, print report cards, even track lunches and accounts and much more. Janette is in Missoula all week attending training on this system and I will be going in to a few of the sessions that I need to know to train the teachers.

Standards Based Grading Update- On April 22nd, our last Friday workday, the teachers and I went to Lolo School where they have been using standards based grading for 4 years. The teachers grouped up according to grade level and were able to talk to teachers and see how the change in grading has affected their instruction. I was able to visit with the K-4 principal at length as well and received lots of good information, do's and don'ts and resources. We all left feeling excited but realistic of how important timing is when implementing a change such as this. With the change to Infinite Campus this summer and learning a new format for report cards, we decided that we will take the next year to focus on how standards based instruction will look in the classroom and begin working as a staff on the common language to be used in our rubrics, with students and parents. We've discussed beginning this year by separating "skill and will" on report cards, meaning effort will be separated from ability. This, in itself, is going to take some time and preparation in implementing.

Consortium- I went to our Curriculum Consortium meeting last Wednesday and there was a lot of talk among the different schools in the consortium about continuing. In the past, the consortium was used as a collaboration amongst schools to perform the mandated curriculum reviews and integration of the standards. It also provided opportunities for teachers to have discussions about what they were doing in their schools. This has not been as helpful to schools as it could be and has been increasingly difficult to get teachers to go. The consortium director fills the role of our curriculum director when we do our state report. Considering we pay the consortium \$1200/year, I will be looking at a different avenue to take to fill our requirements. We are obligated to stay in it the 2016-17 school year, and schools will voice their decision at the fall meeting. I'll keep you posted.

Explorer's- We have 3 week long camps planned for the summer as well as a summer reading program. Crissina has done a great job with activities and educational opportunities for the kids.

Upcoming-

May 9- OMSI
May 11- Shakespeare
May 12- Track Meet Frenchtown
May 17-19- Outdoor School 7th graders
May 19- Meet of Champions Big Sky
May 22-29 8th grade trip
May 23- K-4 field trip to Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation
June 1- Graduation
June 2- Last day of School
June 3- Teacher work day

Board Professional Development Reports

Gary finished the grandstands, Cliff dug gravel from the long jump pit, Jason studied education finance, Kelsy did teacher appreciation and OMSI, and Craig is helping the 8th grade with their HIT trip.

School board Calendar

Only Bus Route review and approval is left on the calendar this year.

PEA Negotiation on Early Retirement

Kelsy moved to accept the PEA negotiation on Early Retirement. Craig seconded the motion. A discussion ensued concerning the motion.

Cliff said he hasn't been able to reach Deborah Silk to discuss this issue. He wants to make sure this doesn't become a question of buying teachers out. Keeping experienced teachers is one of the goals this district has.

The request is for \$540 per month for 24 months. A side effect of this would be a new liability of \$1500 to \$2000 per year for running an actuarial.

Gary said he is hesitant to sign up for a recurring cost. What other options do we have?

Abby said Jill discussed some places offer a lump sum as an option for early retirement. Cliff asked if the other teacher we have who falls under this category would take this offer and Terri Klein said she would not, and would put that in writing.

Craig asked if we know if a lump sum has the same liabilities. Kelsy said we also need to be careful with a lump sum to make sure it doesn't cost Nancy a large amount in taxes.

Jason asked if we've thought about looking outside the school system – something like a fundraiser. He asked Nancy if she would be open to that, and she said she would only want what she needs. Abby said gifts under \$14,000 are non taxable.

Kelsy said she is concerned about setting a precedent. Terri said she only knows of people who have taken advantage of something like this from need or circumstance.

Cliff will continue to research this with MTSBA.

Cliff asked for a vote on the motion to accept the PEA negotiation on Early Retirement. **Failed 5-0**

Personnel

Angie Williams recommended Kristina Burtch to fill our Resource, Art and Math teaching position.

Gary moved to hire Kristina Burtch as a teacher for the 2016-2017 school year. Jason seconded the motion. **Passed 5-0**

Adjourn

Board Chair Vann adjourned the Board meeting at 8:02 pm.